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SUBJECT: TFUS01: SRI LANKAN PRIME MINISTER SENDS
CONDOLENCES ON HURRICANE KATRINA

1. On September 7 Embassy received a letter of condolence on Hurricane Katrina from Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse to President Bush. The text of the letter follows below.

2. Begin text:

2 September 2005

His Excellency George W. Bush
President of the United States of America

Excellency,

I was struck with extreme grief when I heard the news of the devastation caused by hurricane Katrina, which hit the Southeastern United States, including Louisiana. I am deeply saddened by the extensive and severe damage it had caused, killing thousands and leaving millions of American people without homes, electricity and water.

Having experienced the worst ever natural disaster Sri Lanka faced, not so long ago, I could imagine the grief, trauma, and stress it would have caused you, particularly to see many of your people killed or made destitute.

At this moment, I wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to you, the government of the USA and all American people. May I also kindly request you to convey our sympathies to the near and dear of those who lost their lives as a result of the Katrina. Also, I wish fast normalization of life in the areas devastated by the hurricane.

Excellency, our thoughts and prayers are with you and the American people, at this hour of grief.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mahinda Rajapakse

End text.

3. A copy of the letter has been faxed to SA/INS.
ENTWISTLE